

7 January 1974

Mr. Lawrence Stessin, Editor
Row Features
799 Broadway
New York, New York 10003

STAT

Dear Mr. Stessin:

The Director has asked me to reply to your friendly invitation of December 13, 1973. As a number of newsmen in Washington know, Mr. Colby has been as available to the press on a background basis as his schedule has permitted. He has been as forthcoming as he properly feels he can.

Can you tell us something more about your "Shop Talk" sessions? Are they run on the basis of what is called, I guess, the gridiron rule, i.e., "There are no reporters present," or is it a public speech, or what? How many members and guests would be present? Is the speaker intended to produce copy?

It was nice to see the letterhead of the OPC again. I am a lapsed member from a long time ago. Louis Lochner, my AP bureau chief in Berlin, put me up for membership, but my jobs were in the Chicago and Washington bureaus; then I joined the Foreign Service, so I just drifted away. It is nice to see the club is moving ahead with vigor. I certainly recognize a lot of names among the past presidents.

Sincerely,

/s/ Angus MacLean Thuermer

Angus MacLean Thuermer
Assistant to the Director

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ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR